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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/508,870	10/04/2000	Yuraki Furuata	16869P-00610	4059

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EXAMINER

GILLIGAN, CHRISTOPHER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3626

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/508,870	Applicant(s) FURUHATA ET AL.	
	Examiner Luke Gilligan	Art Unit 3626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. In the amendment filed 8/10/05, the following has occurred: claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11-13 have been amended and claim 14 has been added. Now, claims 1-5 and 8-14 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,442,526 in view of Kitabayashi, U.S. Patent No. 5,920,858.

4. As per claim 1, Vance teaches a schedule management system comprising a plurality of terminal devices interconnected over a communication link for performing a travel expense reimbursement processing, wherein: at least one of said plurality of terminals serves as a management terminal device which manages schedules of users managed in said system on an external storage apparatus (see column 4, lines 39-59); each of said plurality of terminal devices other than said management terminal device serves as a schedule inputting terminal having an inputting device for inputting schedule information (see column 5, lines 1-17); said schedule management system comprising: an external storage apparatus for storing schedule information having classification data on location of a business event and pre-selected schedule status data inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal (see column 5, lines 17-41 and column 6, lines 5-10) and travel expense reimbursement information indicating whether or not travel expense has been reimbursed (see column 9, lines 38-50); and a computer

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readable medium including: said classification data indicates whether or not the business event involved a business trip (see column 13, lines 54-58, it is noted that reservation information can indicate business events involving a trip and not involving a trip such as restaurant reservations); code for determining whether or not the business trip indicated by said classification data was an authorized business trip based on said status data (see column 14, lines 34-36); code for comparing said travel expense reimbursement information and said business trip schedule information with each other to search for travel expense information that is associated with authorized business trips that have not been reimbursed (see column 8, lines 10-16); and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed (see column 8, lines 18-25).

5. Vance does not explicitly teach that the schedule information includes business trip schedule information and non-business trip schedule information and determining whether or not a given item of said schedule information relates to said business trip schedule information or said non-business trip schedule information based on said classification data. However, Kitabayashi teaches a business schedule management system that includes displaying business trip schedules non-business trip schedules based upon input status and classification data, wherein classification data includes a location of a business event and indicates whether or not the business event involved a business trip (see column 12, lines 15-25, column 15, lines 27-36 and Figure 14, note that schedule data can be filtered by event type and event location). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the system of Vance in particular to supplement the ability in Vance to identify the "purpose of the trip" when determining whether to reimburse expenses. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate this feature for the purpose of

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enhancing the variety of schedule data that can be managed while saving time and effort when registering and retrieving the data (see column 1, line 66 – column 2, line 3 of Kitabayashi).

6. As per claim 2, Vance in view of Kitabayashi teach the system of claim 1 as described above. Vance further teaches said travel expense reimbursement information includes first information identifying a person for whom the schedule information has been prepared and second information indicating the date of a business trip, said schedule information including third information identifying a person for whom the schedule information has been prepared and fourth information indicating the date of a business trip (see column 5, lines 5-33).

7. As per claim 3, Vance in view of Kitabayashi teach the system of claim 2 as described above. Vance further teaches code for searching said first information and third information that corresponds to each other, and code for searching said schedule information having the fourth information which indicates a date that precedes a reference date and said travel expense reimbursement information corresponding to said schedule information that has not been completed (see column 8, lines 4-25).

8. Claims 4-5 recite substantially similar limitations to those already addressed in claims 1-3 and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.

9. Claims 8-13 recite substantially similar limitations to those already addressed in claims 1-3 and , as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.

10. As per claim 14, Vance in view of Kitabayashi teach the system of claim 8 as described above. Vance further teaches code for determining whether or not a given entry of first type relating to business meeting relates to an authorized business meeting based on status data (see column 14, lines 34-40).

Response to Arguments


11. In the remarks filed 8/10/05, Applicant's argue in substance that the previously applied prior art did not teach two parameters for determining a business trip that requires reimbursement. It is respectfully submitted that these arguments have been fully considered but are now moot in view of the new grounds of rejection detailed above.


Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke Gilligan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6770. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-5:30pm.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CLG
10/31/05


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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600